



# BAMBOO SOCIETY OF INDIA

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## BAMBOO CULTIVATION

- Bamboo is a woody grass growing like a tree, up to 40 metres tall and 30 cm thick.
- Grows rapidly, regenerates annually, very fast growing as some grow 90 cm/day. -Some are clumping and some running type. Some are thorny and many non-thorny. The thorny ones are difficult to harvest.
- Grows in 'temperate' to 'tropical' regions.
- Can tolerate fire, snow, drought, flooding for short durations.
- **Soils:** Well drained loamy soils are best. Can grow in poor soil and degraded lands with less yields. Helps bind soil, control erosion and ensure slope stability. pH required 4.5-6.
- Improves water holding capacity by 20%.
- Releases 30% more Oxygen and sequesters 40% more Carbon than trees.
- "Vegetal steel" higher tensile strength 28000 pounds/sq inch than steel (23000 pounds/Sq inch) hence extensively used for construction.
- Bamboo has over 1500 uses and applications
- **Important Indian Bamboo Species:**  
*Dendrocalamus strictus, Bambusa bambos, Melocanna baccifera, Bambusa bulcoa, Bambusa tulda, Bambusa nutans, Dendrocalamus stocksii, Ochlandra travancorica, Bambusa multiplex, Dendrocalamus hamiltonii, Dendrocalamus giganteus, Bambusa polymorpha, Bambusa vulgaris, Dendrocalamus brandisii, Dendrocalamus asper, Dendrocalamus Longispathus.*
- **Bamboo Plantation:**
  - Plantations may be raised from seeds, rhizome or rooted cuttings and tissue culture.
  - Pit size of 60x60x60 cm. Fill with 5 kg compost/FYM + 100 g VAM + 15g phosphorus solubilising bacteria + 5g Azospirillum. 0.5 per cent Chloropyriphos solution for termites and plant in June.
  - Irrigating a must post monsoon twice a week first year and once a fortnight 2<sup>nd</sup> year onwards @ about 20 lit/plant/day.
  - Fertiliser: 100 gm Nitrogen, 50 gm Phosphorus, 50 gm Potassium along with 5 kg of compost/FYM each year in 2 split doses.
  - Summer temp should not be below 15°C.
  - Spacement 4x4 mt to 8x8 mt depending on species. Higher spacement, thicker culm.
  - **Caution:** close spacement with 1000 to 2500 plants / acre are a failure.
  - May plant trees like Teak, Rosewood, Mahagony, Sandalwood, Melia dubia, here and there for straight culms.
  - Best to plant bamboo on boundary which will give additional income to regular crops.
  - Harvest 3 year old culms. Regular income from 5th or 7th year onwards. Can be done at the owners convenience unlike fruits which can't wait.
  - Low cost in maintenance as pests and diseases are few. Initial years control sucking pests.
  - Expenditure for 1st year about 1lakh /acre. Maintenance average Rs 20,000/- per acre, per year.
  - **Yields:** 10-20 Tons /Acre/yr, 5-10 culms can be harvested / year from 6<sup>th</sup> year till maturity for 30- 70 years .Net Returns from plantations about Rs.30000- 80000/- per year from 6-7th year.
  - **Caution:** 1.Take up bamboo plantations only after ensuring market tie up.  
2. Specifications for raising plantation varied from region to region. Hence consulting experts in this regard is a must. Hence those interested in farming bamboo are advised to contact BSI at **080-23469153** and Email ID **bamboosocietyofindia@gmail.com** so that we will guide you to contact the expert for your region who will advise you as per your local need.